



## ¶ By the King.

### ¶ A Proclamation for restraint of killing, dressing, and eating of Fleih in Lent, or on Fish-dayes, appointed by the Law, to be hereafter *strictly obserued by all sorts of people.*



Hereas diuers good Lawes and Statutes , haue heretofore , with great care and prouidence been made and enacted for the due obseruation of Lent, and other dayes appointed for Fish-dayes , aswell for the sparing & increase of flesh victuall, as for the maintenance of the Nauie and shipping of this Realme, by the encouragement of Fishermen to goe to the Seas for the taking of fish, whiche Lawes and politique Constitutions, haue from time to time been seconded and quickned by sundry Proclamations , and other Actes and Ordinances of State in the time of Our Royall Predecessors ; And wheras, notwithstanding so many good prouisions heretofore had and made in that kinde , Wee

haue obserued, that the inordinate liberty vsually taken by all sorts of people, to kill, dresse and eat Flesh in the Lent season, and on other dayes and times prohibited, is become so inueterate an euil, that it will require more then ordinary care to supprese the same.

We therefore, much affecting the reformation of so great and growing an euil, whiche is so great an enemy to the plenty of this Our Kingdom, and so great a discouragement to Fishermen, who would be the best Seminary of Mariners, haue thought fit to expresse Our Selfe, & Our Royall Commandement in this behalfe, in such a plaine and cleare way, that there may from henceforth be no pretence of excuse to any, wherof, without fure declaration of Our pleasure in this kinde, we shall expect, and doe require from all Our Subjects , that due notice bee taken , and that a strict and continued obedience and conformity bee yeelded therunto, both for the present, and in all succeding times.

And therefore we doe straitly charge and command all and every person and persons whatsoeuer, to whom it may appertaine, carefully to prouide and see, that these Orders following may be duely obserued and put in execution, vpon paine of Our high displeasure, and such penalties as by the Lawes of this Our Realme may be inflicted vpon the Offenders, for their contempt or neglect of Us and Our Lawes. Whereof we shall shew Our Selfe most sensible.

And first, where as we find , that the chiefeſt cause of these disorders hath growen from the Licences that haue been granted to Butchers to kill and biter Fleſh contrary to Law, and that by Our Lawes, no Maioſ, Justice of Peace, or other person of what degree or quality ſocuer, can grant any Licence in this kinde; And that the Lords, and others of Our Privy Councell, doz by Our direction forbeare to grant the ſame, or giue way therunto; Our will and pleasure is, vpon the penalties prouided by Law, and ſuch further punishment to be inflicted vpon the offenders, as ſhall be thought meete, that no ſuch Licence ſhall bee granted for the killing or biting of Fleſh; And, that no Butcher, or other person whatſoever, doe by colour thereof, kill, biter, or put to ſale any Fleſh contrary to the Lawes eſtabliſhed and prouided in that behalfe.

And for the auoiding of ſuch inconueniences hereafter, Our will and pleasure is, that the Lord Maioſ of Our Citiſ of London, and every other Officer and Justice of Peace, ſhal call before them, and ſend for al, or the ſervants of any Inholders, Victuallers, Cooks, Alehousekeepers, Tauerners, and keepers of Ordinary tables, & ſuch others that biter Victuals, & to examine them vpon their corporall Oathes, what Fleſh is, or hath been during the Lent ſeafon, or other dayes prohibited by the Law, dressed, killed, bited, or eaten in their houses, whiche if they ſhall refuse to doe, then to commit to priſon the ſaid ſervants ſo refuſing vpon their Oathes to declare the trueth.

That the Lord Mayor of London shall also yeerely before Lent, or at the beginning thereof, cause all Inholders, keepers of Ordinary tables, Cookes, Butchers, Victuallers, Alehouse keepers, and Lauerners within the sayd Citie and Liberties thereof, to appeare before him, or such persons as he shall appoynt meete for that purpose; And shall take Recognizances with sufficient Sureties of every of them in good summes of money, (Viz.) One hundred pounds of the Principall, and their sureties thirty pounds apiece, to Our vse, that the Butchers shall kill no flesh, and that the other persons before mentioned, doe not dress any flesh in their houses in the Lent time, or other times prohibited, for any respect, nor suffer it to bee eaten contrary to Law. The like Recognizance with Sureties, shall be taken of like parties vpon like penalties, by such of the Justices of Peace of Our Citie of Westminster, and the Liberties thercof, as wee shall thereunto specially appoint, and every of the sayd Recognizances to be certified into Our Exchequer.

And for the Butchers, and others that come with Victuall or Flesh out of the Countrey into the Citie, Our pleasure is, That the Lord Mayor shall cause certaine persons to watch at the Gates and other like places in the Suburbs, where Flesh may be brought, to view & search, and to intercept the same: And if any of those watchmen shall be found negligent and corrupt in his Charge, then he to be committed to prison during the whole Lent.

And to the end that Fishermen may employ themselues to Sea with better encouragement then heretofore, and that the Fishmongers may furnish themselues with such store from time to time hereafter, as shall be expedient, aswell for the prouision of the Citie, as for selling the same at reasonable rates, We will that they take notice of this Our commandement & constant resolution for obseruance of Lent, & Fish dayes, both now and hereafter, as by Law is required.

And furthermore, as we thinke it fit, that every man should be a rule of order and abstinance in his owne house, aswel in respect of the publique, as of his private case and benefit: So we straitly charge & command all Inholders, keepers of Ordinary tables, Victuallers, Cookes, Alehouse keepers, and Lauerners, not to make any Supper for any person or persons whatsoeuer, vpon Friday nights, either in Lent or out of Lent, nor to suffer any meate to be then dressed, bitered, sold, or eaten in their houses, vpon paine of such punishment, as is due to those that shall contemne Our Royall pleasure and Commandement.

And forasmuch as vpon further consideration had of this generall inconuenience, which too much liberty hath occasioned, we conceive, that the restraint of killing and dressing of Flesh is no sufficient remedie alone for these mischiefes, vntesse there be better care also taken to supprese the unlawfull & inordinate eating of Flesh in the time of Lent, and on other dayes and times prohibited, wherewith our Subjects haue accustomed themselues, rather for delicacie then for necessity. It is therefore our Royall will and pleasure, and accordingly, we doe hereby straitly prohibit and forbid all Our Subjects, of what degree or quality soeuer within this Realme, to eate any manner of Flesh in the time of Lent, or on other dayes now vsually obserued as Fish dayes, without a special Licence first obtained from the Lord Archbisshop of Canterbury, in such manner and forme, as by the Act of Parliament made in the fift and twentith yeere of King Henry the eight is ordained, or from the Bishop of the Diocesse, or such other, as by the Law made in the fift yeere of the reigne of Queene Elizabeth is set downe and declared, and for such causes as are there expressed, haue power to gire Licences in that behalfe, and according to Our Lawes in that case prouided, (which we will and command shall be sparingly granted, and in cases of necessity onely. And that such Licences and Dispensations bee not suffered to passe the Seale of the Archbisshop or Bishop, vntill the Rate or Taxe by the sayd Statute payable to Us be duly answered to our Clerke of the Faculties, or to such person or persons as we vnder Our Privie Seale shall appoynt) vpon paine of Our high displeasure, and to be proceeded against, either according to Our Ecclesiastical or Temporall Lawes, or by Our Attorney Generall in Our Court of Starre-chamber, as contemners of Our Royall Commandement, and wilfull neglectors of the common btyllity of the Kingdome; And vpon such further penalties, as by the Lawes and Statutes of Our Realme may bee inflicted on thole that shall wilfully offend in this kinde.

And as these Orders are to be executed in Our Citie of London, and places neere to the same, so it is Our expresse pleasure & Commandement, That Our Justices of Peace in all Shires within their Rule, and all Maiors, Baillifs and chiese Officers in Townes Corporate, or in any Liberties within their precincts, shall cause the same to be obserued & performed in like maner; and that no maner of Toleration, Fauour, or Connivencie be vled by any Justice of Peace, or other Officer, contrary to the true meaning of this our Proclamation, as both they that shall presume wittingly so to tolerate the offence, as also the party himselfe offending, will answeare the same at their bittermost perils; Our Commandement being, That Our Lawes in this case shall bee hereafter severely executed vpon all Offenders whatsoeuer:

Further charging and Commanding the Lord Mayor of Our City of London, the Justices of Assise in their severall Circuits, the Maiors and chiese Officers of all other Cities & Townes

Corporate, Justices of Peace, Lords of Liberties, and all other Officers and Ministers Within the severall Circuits and places of this Our Realme, that they and every of them in their owne persons, for example to others, fully obey this Our pleasure, and cause and compell the same to be obeyed and executed by others, as they will answe the contrary at their btttermost perils.

And for the due execution of the premisses in all other the Countys, Cities and Towns corporate of this Our Realme, aswell as in Our Cities of London and Westminster, We do hereby straitly charge and command, and declare Our will and pleasure to be, that all Our Justices of Peace Within the same Countys, Cities and Townes corporate, aswell Within Liberties as Without, or such, or so many of them as wee shall thereunto specially appoint, if for Our better service, now or hereafter wee shall see cause to appoint any, doe yeerely, and every yeere before Lent, cause to come and appeare before them all Inholders, Cookes, Lauerners, Alehouse-keepers, Butchers, and other Victuallers whosomever, and to require and take of them to Our vse, severall Recognizances, with Sureties for obseruation of the premisses, (viz.) The Principals in tenne pounds, and their two Sureties in five pounds a piece: And if they shall refuse or neglect to enter into such Recognizances, then the Justices of Peace of that Countie, City, Towne corporate, or Liberty, shall supprese such persons so refusing, from victualing any more, and shall also cause them forthwith to become bound by Recognizances with Sureties to Our vse, (viz.) The Principals in twenty pounds, and their two Sureties in tenne pounds a piece, not to victuall, or sell Beere or Ale from thenceforth; which if they shall refuse to doe, then the said Justices to commit to prison all such persons so refusing to enter into such Recognizances, vntil they shal submit themselves, and become bound as aforesaid. And further, that all such Inholders, Cookes, Lauerners, Alehouse keepers, Butchers, and other Victuallers, as shall not appeare before the said Justices, as aforesaid, That they may immediatly send foorth their warrants, to grant Processe against them, and every of them so making default, to appeare and answe their contempt, at the next generall Sessions of the Peace.

And further, for the more due punishment of Inholders, keepers of Ordinary tables, Cookes, Butchers, Victuallers, Alehouse-keepers, Lauerners, and such like, Who shall forfeit their Recognizances by killing or dressing of Flesh, or suffering it to bee eaten in their houses in the Lent time, and other Fish-dayes; And to the end that the same may be as well taken in due forme of Law, as duly certified into Our Exchequer, We do will and require the Lord Maior of London, and all Justices of Peace, aswell Within Liberties as Without, respectively, or such of them as we shall thereunto specially appoint, as aforesaid, That at such times as they shall meete within their severall Precincts or Divisions, for the taking of such Recognizances, they give notice to the Clerkes of the Peace, or their Deputies, or such other Clerkes or their deputies, as wee shall thereunto specially appoint, if wee shall appoint any, to attend them for that purpose; Of whom wee will require a strict account for the legall taking and returning of the same Recognizances into Our said Exchequer; The said Clerkes of the Peace and their Deputies, or other Clerkes and their Deputies, so to be employed by Our appointment, as aforesaid, taking for the making and certifying of the same Recognizances of all Inkeepers, Lauerners, Cookes, and Butchers, the Fee of two shillings six pence; and of all Alehouse-keepers the Fee of twelve pence, as hath been heretofore limited to be taken by the Clerkes of the Peace of the severall Countys, in like cases for every such Recognizance, and no more.

And lastly, for that the Fishmongers ( vpon the obseruation of the aforesaid Orders ) may perhaps take occasion thereby to inhance the prices, aswell of Fresh, as of Sea Fish, We doe therefore hereby further charge and command all Fishmongers whosomever, That they sell and bittre their Fish at moderate and vsual rates and prices; And that all Justices of Peace, Maiors, Baillifes, and other Our Officers, aswell Within Liberties as Without, to whom it shall appertaine, shall from time to time take such order with the said Fishmongers, that Our Subiects bee not grieved by any such inhancement or increase of prices, vpon paine of Our high displeasure, and such further punishment as may be inflicted vpon them by Our Lawes.

Giuen at Our Court at Whitehall, the fourth day of February, in the third yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France, and Ireland.

God sauе the King.

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to the Kings most Excellent Maiestie.

M. D. C. XXVII.